Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /087 W

-----013103 091806Z /46

R 081135Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9731
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CONFIDENTIAL DAR ES SALAAM 3809

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PEP, SL, TZ

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT STEVENS' VISIT TO TANZANIA

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 3726 NOTAL

1. SEPTEPTER 2 - TANZANIAN VISIT OF SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT STEVENS, SHORN OF MUCH OF ITS APPARENTLY INTENDED SUBSTANCE RON ETHIOPIA - SUDAN MATTERS (REFTEL), TURNED INTO A ROUTINE STATE VISIT . STEVENS' SCHEDULE INCLUDED A 90 - MINUTE MEETING WITH NYERERE, ABOUT WHICH IT WAS PUBLICLY REPORTED ONLY THAT THEY DISCUSSED SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE HORN. WE HAVE NO DETAILS ON TALKS BUT WILL REPORT WHATEVER WE MAY BE ABLE TO LEARN, EXPECIALLY ON ETHIOPIA - SUDAN MEDIATION.

2. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS WELCOMED STEVENS AS ONE OF AFRICA'S GENUINE POLITICAL ELDERS FROM WHOM TANZANIA HAD SOMETHING TO LEARN. STEVENS' THEME THROUGHOUT WAS PRAISE FOR TANZANIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ITS READERS, AS WELL AS

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ITS CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN LIBERATION.

3. SUBJECT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AROSE DURING EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES AT STATE DINNER HOSTED BY PRESIDENT NYERERE. NYERERE SPOKE HQHLY OF ECOWAS AND THE MANO RIVER UNION AS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. IN REPLY, STEVENS SAID SIERRA LEONE WAS SADDENED BY THE DEMISE OF THE EAST AFRICAN

COMMUNITY. HE WAS PLEASED THAT TANZANIA WAS TRYING TO REACTIVATE THE EAC, BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A "LARGER SETTING." HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TOMVELP AND THAT HIS MESSAGE URGING REGIONAL COOPERATION WAS ALSO FOR THE LEADERS OF KENYA AND UGANDA.

4. STEVENS' SCHEDULE INCLUDED VSITS TO A GAME PARK, A NATIONAL SERVICE CAMP, AND A RAILROAD YARD, THE LBNM STOP IN APPARENT RECOGNITION OF STEVENS' FORMER SERVICE AS A STATIONMASTER.

5. COMMENT. GEORGRAPHY WORKS AGAINST CLOSE MES BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE AND TANZANIA, BUT STEVENS AND NYERERE SEEMED TO HIT IT OFF WELL AND YYERE COULD BE MORE TO COME. THEY OF COURSE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN SUDAN-ETHIOPIA MEDIATION. TANGOV SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN EARLIER VISIT BY ALL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS DELEGATION TO STUDY HOW TANZANIA'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OPERATES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 sep 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DARES03809
Document Source: ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780368-0164

Format: TEL

From: DAR ES SALAAM Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780990/aaaacwgl.tel

Line Count: 79 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 42b9de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 DAR ES SALAAM 3726

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1510434 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRESIDENT STEVENS\' VISIT TO TANZANIA TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, SL, TZ, (STEVENS, SIAKA P)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/42b9de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014